

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of labelling a succession of containers (2); the method comprising the following steps:

identifying each container (2) to assign to ~~the~~ each container (2) one of a number of possible types before ~~the~~ each container (2) is fed along a labelling path (P), each container being identified on the basis of at least one of colour, shape and size of the container or by processing information from operating machines located upstream from the labelling path (P);

assigning each container with one of the possible types;

feeding each container (2) along the labelling path (P) through a number of labelling stations (17), each of the labelling stations being configured for applying a respective label (7) to a container (2) travelling through ~~the~~ a respective labelling station (17);

assigning loading the labelling stations with different types of pre-printed labels and assigning a category of containers (2) to each labelling station (17) type of pre-printed labels a category of containers different from the categories of containers of the other types of pre-printed labels so that each type of pre-printed labels loaded in a relevant labelling station is assigned to only a limited number of related containers; and

only activating each labelling station (17) to apply ~~the~~ a type of pre-printed label (7) to the container (2) travelling through the labelling station (17) if ~~the~~ such container (2) is of a type which falls within the category of containers (2) assigned to the type of pre-printed labels loaded in the labelling station (17); so that each labelling station applies its own pre-printed labels to all and only the limited number of containers falling within the category of containers assigned to the pre-printed labels in the respective labelling station

~~the method being characterized by the fact that each container (2) is identified only on the basis of the physical features of the container (2) or only by processing information from operating machines (3) located upstream from the labelling path (P); each labelling station (17) being loaded with a same type of pre-printed labels (7) and applying to the relevant containers (2) always the same pre-printed label (7) in a given same position.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each container (2) is

identified by feeding the container (2) through a recognition station (16) located upstream from the labelling stations (17) along the labelling path (P) and having at least one sensor (29) for identifying the container (2).

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each container (2) is identified on the basis of the shape of the container (2).

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each container (2) is identified on the basis of the size of the container (2).

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each container (2) is identified on the basis of the colour of the container (2).

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each labelling station (17) comprises a respective guide; and a respective labelling device (26), which is moved along the guide to adapt its position as a function of the shape and size of the containers (2) with respect to a conveyor (15) for feeding each container (2) along the labelling path (P).

7. (Currently Amended) A machine for labelling a succession of containers (2); the machine comprising:

a conveyor (15) for feeding each container (2) along a labelling path (P),

a number of labelling stations (17), each loaded with a number of same type of pre-printed labels and located along the labelling path (P) and configured for applying a respective label (7) to a container (2) travelling through ~~the~~ a respective labelling station (17), and

a recognition device (28) configured for identifying each container (2) and assigning to ~~the each~~ each container (2) one of a number of possible types before ~~the each~~ each container (2) is fed along the labelling path (P), each container being identified and assigned on the basis of at least one of colour, shape and size of the container or by processing information from operating machines located upstream from the labelling path;

wherein each labelling station (17) ~~comprising~~ comprises respective control means (30) for memorizing a category of containers (2) assigned to a respective type of pre-printed labels

loaded in the respective labelling stations which category is different from categories of containers assigned to other types of pre-printed labels loaded in other respective labelling stations so that each type of pre-printed labels loaded in a respective labelling station is assigned only to a limited number of containers; and which

wherein the control means of each labelling station only activate the respective labelling station (17) to apply the respective pre-printed label (7) to the container (2) travelling through the labelling station (17) if the such container (2) falls within the category of containers (2) assigned to the type of pre-printed labels loaded in the labelling station (17); so that each labelling station applies its own pre-printed labels to all and only the limited number of container falling within the category of containers assigned to the pre-printed labels ~~the machine (5) being characterized by the fact that recognition device (28) is able to identify each container (2) only on the basis of the physical features of the container (2) or only by processing information from operating machines (3) located upstream from the labelling path (P); each labelling station (17) being loaded with a same type of pre-printed labels (7) and being able to apply to the relevant containers (2) always the same pre-printed label (7) in a given same position.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A machine as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the recognition device (28) comprises a recognition station (16) located upstream from the labelling stations (17) along the labelling path (P) and having at least one sensor (29) for identifying the container (2).

9. (Currently Amended) A machine as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the sensor (29) identifies each container (2) on the basis of the shape of the container (2).

10. (Currently Amended) A machine as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the sensor (29) identifies each container (2) on the basis of the size of the container (2).

11. (Currently Amended) A machine as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the sensor (29) identifies each container (2) on the basis of the colour of the container (2).

12. (Currently Amended) A machine as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the conveyor (15) comprises a carousel conveyor (20) with a vertical axis (21).

13. (Currently Amended) A machine as claimed in Claim 7, wherein each labelling station (~~17~~) comprises a respective guide; and a respective labelling device (~~26~~), which is mounted to move along the guide to adapt its position with respect to the conveyor (~~15~~) as a function of the shape and size of the containers (~~2~~).